Netherlands for acquisition of an effective shareholding of 51.96% in Hutchison Essar Limited.

(b) to (d) The Telecom Policy is formulated by the Government. The extant Policy envisages providing telecom services of world standard at reasonable prices.

Target fixed by banks for priority sector lending

4366. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank has fixed a target of 40 per cent as Priority Sector Lending for banks;

(b) the category of banks which have to meet the target of 40 per cent Priority Sector Lending;

(c) the names of major banks who have to meet this target;

(d) how many banks failed to meet this target in the year 2006-07; and

(e) what penalties did RBI levy against such errant Banks in the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RBI policy stipulates a target of 40% Adjusted Net Bank Credit or credit equivalent amount of off balance sheet exposure of the bank outstanding as on March 31 of the previous year for lending to priority sector by scheduled commercial banks.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Designs on currency notes

†4367. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) basis of inscribing sign and picture on currency notes and other currency of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) total number of designs on currency notes and designs on other currency which have been used till date; and

(c) whether Government are aware that there is discontentment in the country due to cross sign inscribed on new two rupees currency coins presently in use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The selection of sign and picture incorporated in currency notes (design) and other currency is usually based on the country's culture, its development, achievements in science and technology, art, flora & fauna as also the leading national personalities.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Though there had been a few articles in the Newspapers and a few representations, there is no discontentment amongst the general public as the symbol is like arithmetical sign "plus" with four dots and denotes "unity in diversity".

Concrete policy for farmers

†4368. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any concrete policy to lift the farmers of the country from economic deterioration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any scheme to provide relief to the poor, debt ridden and famine striken farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) On 18.06.2004 the Government announced a package to double the flow of agriculture credit within three years, which has been achieved in two years itself. The credit flow to agriculture during 2005-06 is Rs. 1,80,486 crore as against Rs. 86,931

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.